

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/803,095

Examiner

Sarah Song

Applicant(s)

ASAHI, KOJI

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 08 August 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3,7,17,21,22 and 25-35.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 March 2001 and 08 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 31, line 3, change "than" to -that-.

The above amendment corrects a typographical error.

2. Applicant's communication filed on August 8, 2003 has been carefully studied by the Examiner. The arguments advanced therein, considered together with the amendments made to the claims, are persuasive and the rejections based upon prior art made of record in the previous Office Action are withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-16, 18-20, 23 and 24 have been canceled. Claims 3, 7, 17, 21 and 22 have been amended. Claims 25-35 have been added. Claims 3, 7, 17, 21, 22 and 25-35 are pending.

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on August 8, 2003. These drawings are accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3, 7, 17, 21, 22 and 25-35 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claims 3 and 17, the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest either alone or in combination, "a

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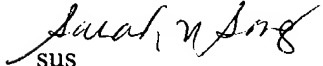
light path control section for branching a path of said light switch so as to have the light signal input at any one of said first ports output from any two of said second ports when supervising the light signal and have the light signals input at each of said first ports output from a predetermined one of said second ports when not supervising the light signals". As stated by the applicants, Asahi (JP 2000-069510) does not disclose or reasonably suggest a control section where supervision does not take place, and therefore does not meet the claimed limitation. Additionally, regarding claims 25, 29 and 33, the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest, either alone or in combination, an apparatus comprising "only one of said $n+1$ output ports having a light signal detector connected thereto" or the method comprising the step of "detecting at least one of light signal quality and management information only at one of said $n=1$ output ports". As noted by the noted by the applicants, every one of the output ports has a light signal detector connected thereto, and therefore does not meet the claimed limitation.

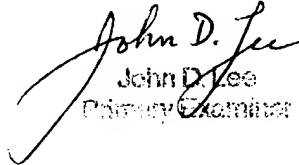
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0141688 in paragraph [0029] discloses an apparatus comprising "a light path control section for branching a path of said light switch so as to have the light signal input at any one of said first ports output from any two of said second ports when supervising the light signal " and "only one of said $n+1$ output ports having a light signal detector connected thereto" but does not qualify as prior art.

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7. Any inquiry concerning the merits of this communication should be directed to Examiner Sarah Song at telephone number 703-306-5799. Any inquiry of a general or clerical nature, or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist at telephone number 703-308-0956 or to the technical support staff supervisor at telephone number 703-308-3072.


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John D. Lee
Primary Examiner